

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 26, 2016

SENATE BILL

No. 1221

Introduced by Senator Hertzberg

February 18, 2016

An act to amend Section 13515.25 of the Penal Code, relating to firefighters.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1221, as amended, Hertzberg. Firefighters: interaction with mentally disabled persons.

Existing law requires the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training to establish a continuing education classroom training course related to law enforcement interaction with mentally disabled persons and to make the course available to law enforcement agencies in California.

This bill would authorize the commission to make the course available to ~~firefighters and fire departments in California.~~ *the State Fire Marshal*. The bill would delete an obsolete reporting requirement and make a conforming change.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 13515.25 of the Penal Code is amended
- 2 to read:
- 3 13515.25. (a) The Commission on Peace Officer Standards
- 4 and Training shall establish and keep updated a continuing
- 5 education classroom training course relating to law enforcement

1 interaction with mentally disabled persons. The training course
2 shall be developed by the commission in consultation with
3 appropriate community, local, and state organizations and agencies
4 that have expertise in the area of mental illness and developmental
5 disability, and with appropriate consumer and family advocate
6 groups. In developing the course, the commission shall also
7 examine existing courses certified by the commission that relate
8 to mentally disabled persons. The commission shall make the
9 course available to law enforcement agencies in California, and
10 ~~may make the course available to firefighters and fire departments~~
11 ~~in California.~~

12 (b) The course described in subdivision (a) shall consist of
13 classroom instruction and shall utilize interactive training methods
14 to ensure that the training is as realistic as possible. The course
15 shall include, at a minimum, core instruction in all of the following:

16 (1) The cause and nature of mental illnesses and developmental
17 disabilities.

18 (2) How to identify indicators of mental disability and how to
19 respond appropriately in a variety of common situations.

20 (3) Conflict resolution and de-escalation techniques for
21 potentially dangerous situations involving mentally disabled
22 persons.

23 (4) Appropriate language usage when interacting with mentally
24 disabled persons.

25 (5) Alternatives to lethal force when interacting with potentially
26 dangerous mentally disabled persons.

27 (6) Community and state resources available to serve mentally
28 disabled persons and how these resources can be best utilized by
29 law enforcement to benefit the mentally disabled community.

30 (7) The fact that a crime committed in whole or in part because
31 of an actual or perceived disability of the victim is a hate crime
32 punishable under Title 11.6 (commencing with Section 422.55)
33 of Part 1.

34 (c) *The course described in subdivision (a) shall be shared with*
35 *the State Fire Marshal, who may revise the course as appropriate*
36 *to the firefighter training environment.*

37 (e)

38 (d) The Legislature encourages law enforcement agencies to
39 include the course created in this section, and any other course

1 certified by the commission relating to mentally disabled persons,
2 as part of their advanced officer training program.
3 ~~(d)~~
4 (e) It is the intent of the Legislature to reevaluate the extent to
5 which law enforcement officers are receiving adequate training in
6 how to interact with mentally disabled persons.

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